

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

By Howell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mayor Jerry T. Stephens of Benton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mayor Jerry T. Stephens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jerry Stephens was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Stephens was born on August 2, 1939, to Clyde Franklin Stephens and Marchie Tallent Stephens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jerry Stephens served with acumen and alacrity as mayor of Benton, in which position he earned the respect of his colleagues and a grateful public for the exemplary quality of his work; he served the Benton community for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, he was a faithful member of Ocoee Church of God, a 32nd Degree Mason, a member of Benton Lions Club, and a member of the Local 704 Ironworkers Union; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Stephens was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jerry Stephens enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife of forty-eight years, Frances Green Harrison Stephens, and their loving children, Chris (Patty) Stephens, Keith Stephens, Dan (Gail) Harrison, and Denise (Kenny) Park; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his grandchildren, Sarah (Jared) Pomeroy, Keena (Jon) Dalton, Letia Stephens, Joey Stephens, Mallorie (Wayne) Gibson, Luke Harrison, Allison (Scott) Rummel, and Hunter Longley; his great-grandchildren, Eli Dalton, Brock Dalton, Emmary Gibson, and Gatlin Gibson; his siblings, Alberta Williams, J.C. (Carolyn) Stephens, and Charlotte Hall; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and a host of friends; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Willie Moats, C.F. Stephens, Jr., Dorothy Brown, Helen Davis, Elizabeth Carr, Don Stephens, and Margaret Stone; and his beloved granddaughter, Crystal Dawn Stephens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Stephens leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mayor Jerry T. Stephens, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mayor Stephens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.